

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. J.D. Evans on 3-26-08.

1. (Currently Amended) A transmission filter comprising a first shell having an inlet opening, a second shell having an outlet opening; said first and second shells mating with each other to form a filter housing, a fluid pervious centertube disposed in the filter housing between the first and second shells such that the inlet opening communicates with the interior of the centertube, at least one set of registering weld posts on interior surfaces of said first and second shells that engage each other to prevent the housing from collapsing when the filter is subjected to a high pressure differential, and a filter medium clamped between the first and second shells and the centertube to form a filter surrounding the centertube through which fluid moving from the inlet opening to the outlet opening must pass.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of making a filter comprising:

- providing mateable first and second synthetic resin shells with respective inlet and outlet openings, said shells having at least one set of registering weld posts on

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inside surfaces thereof that engage each other to prevent the housing from collapsing when the filter is subjected to a high pressure differential;

- disposing a central portion of a filter web against an inside surface of one of said shells;

- disposing a fluid pervious centertube against said central portion of said filter web to clamp said filter web against said one shell;

- wrapping said filter web around said centertube to form a filter bag;

- mating the other of said shells with said one shell with the weld posts on their inside surfaces registering to form a filter housing, whereby a peripheral portion of said filter material is clamped between said centertube and said other shell; and

- welding the first and second shells and the centertube together in a single welding step with the filter bag clamped between them such that fluid moving from the inlet opening to the outlet opening must pass through the filter bag.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Leason is considered the closest prior art, however, the reference fails to teach or suggest the limitation of the weld posts engaging each other to prevent the housing from collapsing when the filter is subjected to a high pressure differential as recited in instant claims 1 and 9.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O. Savage whose telephone number is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew O Savage/
Primary Examiner
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